

# Weekly Views

Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

*"The past is a ghost,  
the future a dream. All  
we ever have is now."  
~ Bill Cosby*

*Friday, February 27, 2009*

Branchville Correctional Facility held a PLUS graduation ceremony this week for 28 offenders who completed the 16-month faith and character-based program. Oakland City University's Culinary Arts students provided refreshments.

The Plainfield Correctional Facility Barber Apprenticeship Program received a Certificate of Registration from the U. S. Department of Labor. 17 offenders will participate in the program, which leads to journeyman certification as a barber.

Administrative Assistant Leatha Sweatt and 5 residents from the Indianapolis Women's Community Re-Entry Center attended a Christmas Behind Bars bagging day. 500 volunteers prepared 15,000 packages for Indiana prisons and jails.

Reception-Diagnostic Center recently held a "breakfast for lunch" Biscuits and Gravy sale to raise money for the upcoming Correctional Employees' Appreciation Week. \$257.65 was raised during the 2-day sale.

New Castle Correctional Facility PLUS Unit offenders raised \$2,100 through a pizza and Coke sale. Some of the money will be used to buy books and materials for the PLUS program, and \$300 was donated to the Saylor Prison Ministry.

Edinburgh Correctional Facility added another work crew to support the Homeland Security Search and Rescue area by assisting with maintenance and sanitation.

Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility hosted an all-staff "Soul Food" Pitch-in for Black History Month. The celebration began with Indianapolis Public School Superintendent Dr. Eugene White speaking.

Putnamville Correctional Facility recently held its quarterly Community Advisory Board meeting. Clay County judges attended, and winners of the Offender Black History Month Art/Essay/Poem Contest dined with board members.

The Kairos Prison Ministry Organization began a 4-day program at the Pendleton Correctional Facility this week. This will be the first time in the organization's history to provide a program to segregation offenders.

New Castle Correctional Facility staff participated in Career Day and did a presentation on "Your Career in Corrections" at the New Castle Community School System this week. All 5 middle schools in Henry County participated.

A Southern Gospel quartet called Born Again gave a live concert for offenders at the Indiana State Prison minimum security unit. Staff and offenders alike enjoyed the concert.

Fatherhood program participants at Wabash Valley Correctional Facility sponsored a fundraising drive by selling donuts to the offender population. The Riley Children's Fund and the Wabash Valley March of Dimes will receive \$1,000 each!

Indiana Women's Prison offenders and staff welcomed the Blessed Hope Church during a program featuring Sheila Raye Charles, daughter the legendary Ray Charles. Ms. Charles gave her personal testimony and performed musical numbers.

Westville Correctional Facility presented its first "Purposeful Sentencing Initiative" meetings. Judges, Prosecuting Attorneys, Public Defenders, and Probation Officers heard information about the Department's Therapeutic Communities (TCs). The initiative will review the sentencing of offenders with drug convictions to a TC.

Plainfield Correctional Facility celebrated Black History Month by allowing offenders to submit original artwork pieces highlighting Black History and compete in a trivia challenge. Winners of the contests were announced at an assembly.

The Correctional Industrial Facility's Education Department, in conjunction with the Chaplains, held a Black History Month Celebration in the Chapel. Executive Director Richard Curry was the guest speaker.

Pendleton Correctional Facility conducted a Black History Month program for Level One offenders at the Outside Dormitory this week. The guest speaker for the event was Save the Youth Foundation Executive Director Byron Alston.

Miami Correctional Facility held graduation ceremonies for 51 CLIFF offenders. Deputy Commissioner Koester presented a plaque to Program Director Tricia Pretorius honoring CLIFF as the ACA Exemplary Offender Program.

The U.S. Department of Labor visited Indiana State Prison this week to showcase the apprenticeship program to other facilities. ISP staff and offenders were first to complete the program, and staff answered questions from other IDOC staff.

*From the Office of Edwin G. Buss, Commissioner*